

Minutes of the regular meeting of the ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION held in the CVRD Boardroom, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan, on November 18, 2010 at 6:03 pm.

PRESENT: Rodger Hunter - Chair Director Kent
 Bruce Fraser Kevin Visscher
 Roger Wiles Dave Polster
 Justin Straker Pete Keber
 Judy Stafford Chris Wood

ALSO Kate Miller, Manager, Regional Environmental Policy

PRESENT: Jacob Ellis, Manager, Corporate Planning
 Kate Lindsay, Sr. Environmental Analyst
 Dyan Freer, Recording Secretary

ABSENT: Larry George, Brian Dennison, Director Iannidinardo,
 Director Hutchins, Director Giles, Bruce Sampson, John
 Morris

**APPROVAL
OF AGENDA**

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be approved as presented with the addition of CR3 land sub-committee report and CR4 agricultural sub-committee report.

MOTION CARRIED

**ADOPTION
OF MINUTES**

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the October 21, 2010, Environment Commission meeting be adopted as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

**BUSINESS ARISING
OUT OF MINUTES**

B1 Land Committee workshop proposal – requested funding for a workshop to be discussed under CR3.

B2 Updated 2010 Budget was discussed.

- Three quotes for reprinting of 100 copies of the State of Environment Report were received and best quote is for \$2224 plus taxes. Agree to go ahead with the order.
- Water conservation workshop has taken place – costs not in.
- Staff notes that a budget should be prepared by subcommittees and purchase orders need to be prepared prior to any upcoming workshops for financial tracking within the E&E department. Email on this issue will be sent out for clarity.

B3 Environment Commission member expiration terms

All members (except one to date) have chosen to be reappointed for two years, and three members must let recording secretary know if they choose one year term.

Manager reiterated that there is a commitment of participating as it is a working committee and members must be willing to take on some outside tasks.

DELEGATIONS

- D1** Jacob Ellis, Manager, Corporate Planning presented the Environmental Lens Initiative of the CVRD. The object of the lens is to achieve sustainable practices within the CVRD by weaving the Environmental Lens into all decision making. Highlights included:
- Ongoing \$300,000 Regional Sustainability Planning Process.
 - Implement a sustainability checklist review
 - Implement a Cowichan Regional Area Agricultural Plan
 - Develop a plan to ensure the CVRD complies with the BC Climate Action Charter by 2012
 - Implement a ‘green’ subdivision servicing bylaw
 - Develop a ‘green team’ corporate employee engagement plan
 - Establish an ‘Eco Depot’ in South Cowichan to promote recycling and responsible waste management.

Discussion ensued on the seven lens:

- Lens 1 – A Sustainable Economy
- Lens 2 – Healthy Natural Ecosystems
- Lens 3 – Abundant Local food
- Lens 4 – Good Water Supply
- Lens 5 – Lower Carbon Footprint
- Lens 6 – Timely , Efficient Transportation
- Lens 7 – Managing our Waste

Jacob Ellis also gave an overview on the CVRD Corporate Strategic Plan. It is made up of six main goals:

- Goal 1 – Sustainable Land Use
- Goal 2 - Healthy Environment
- Goal 3 – Service Excellence
- Goal 4 – Viable Economy
- Goal 5 – Safe and Healthy Community
- Goal 6 – Sustainable Infrastructure

It will provide long term direction for the CVRD, organizational focus, better budgeting and improved decision making.

‘The Sustainability Checklist for Rezoning and Development Permit Applications’ handout was given out - to be discussed by the Commission at another meeting.

It was moved and seconded to invite a senior member of the CVRD planning staff to give feedback on how useful the Sustainability Checklist is and how the public are finding it.

MOTION CARRIED

- D2 Bruce Fraser** – explained the issues that the task force on Species at Risk wishes to address. They are preparing legislation to identify Species at Risk. Need to focus on causes, not symptoms – eco-system decay in other words. There are 80 recovery strategies underway in BC. What is our carrying capacity – what restoration needs to be done? Discussion ensued.

**REPORT OF THE
CHAIRPERSON**

Signup sheet for presentations on SoE within the Community
Presentations to date: City of Duncan, North Cowichan, Lake Cowichan and Ladysmith have had presentations. Commission to email secretary to update list of dates of presentations and to whom, plus recommended groups to speak to. Suggestion to add a line to our current ads to ask people to contact us if they would like a speaker. Chris Wood will incorporate that into the next add.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Peter Nix – requesting speakers for an upcoming conference.
- Several responses from our ad campaign have come in and been circulated to members via email.

INFORMATION

- \$55K to continue air quality testing. Update on provincial funding for continuation of wood stove replacement program.
- CBC interviewed Kate Miller re air quality in the CVRD.
- Planning presentations for 2011. This will be an agenda item for next meeting.

**COMMITTEE
REPORTS**

CR1 Communications – Chris Wood

Advertising campaign is proceeding – example of some of the ads currently going into local papers and radio stations for November and December were shown. Upcoming ads will be on Energy and Biodiversity. Suggestion to make a cohesive whole of all the ads and present it to remind the public of all that has been circulated.

CR2 Water and Fish – Rodger

Plan to present to commission on Cowichan Water Board in early 2011 and plan what they will want to do. \$5000 approved for education – it will be used this year.

Air – report by Rodger Hunter. They have not decided what initiatives to do – request approved funding to roll over to 2011.

CR3 Land – Justin Straker

Subcommittee report was distributed. Two issues: Planning and budget of proposed land use workshop and recommendations on issues regarding land use and draft motions put forward.

It was moved and seconded to endorse the land workshop on carrying capacity study in January or February 2011.

MOTION CARRIED

Discussion on a motion to the Board re the land report needs carried forward to move to next meeting. Need to frame it in a positive manner. Plan to have motion to the Board for their January meeting. Commission members will give comments to Justin or Dave and will then be formulated and discussed in greater detail by group at next meeting.

CR4 Agriculture – workshop planned for December 9, 2010 at Duncan Fire Hall. It will be an all day event. Guest speaker, Jill Clapperton, has given a reduced rate for the Agricultural Society. It will be a free workshop and information will be circulated. Farmers are very pleased that CVRD is supporting this. The Ag Society will help financially if necessary. Expecting 100 people. Reducing ground water and surface water contamination are topics of interest for this workshop as well. Question: How are other committees planning to do the work involved in setting up and putting on workshops? Is CVRD providing staff support? Other partners enhance the workshops and make them more credible as well.

Question to be answered in the future: how did the Agricultural Advisory Committee form? Who are the members and how were they chosen?

STAFF REPORTS

SR1 Species at Risk –Staff report tabled as a useful backgrounder for the commissions consideration, relative to the issues of Species at Risk and potential impacts on local governments.

NEW BUSINESS

NB1 Coastal Douglas-Fir Ecosystem. Will be discussed at an upcoming meeting. Also to be discussed will be the Economic Strategic Plan that took place with the Focus Group this past month.

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, December 16, 2010

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm.

Chair

Recording Secretary

Dated: _____